

21 November 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL C.I.G. PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Definition of Central Intelligence Group

1. Inquiries are continually being made by persons sincerely interested in the organization of the Central Intelligence Group. These persons include, of course, prospective employees as well as persons who merely know of the existence of such an organization, and upon meeting an employee of this Group they generally ask, in effect, "Just what is the Central Intelligence?"

2. In order that uniformity may be maintained in answering such inquiries, and in order that maximum possible security may be attained, it is believed that a uniform definition should be established. It is, therefore, proposed that the following definition of the Central Intelligence Group be used in response to inquiries which are inevitable and legitimate:

"The Central Intelligence Group is a recently created interdepartmental organization in which the State, War, Navy and sometimes other departments participate. It coordinates all activities of the Government involved in obtaining and analyzing information about foreign countries which this country needs for its national security. It also furnishes interdepartmental analyses of this type of information for use by Government officials."

This definition, while basically true, is unrevealing and should stop further curiosity.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

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Colonel, GCS
Executive for Personnel and Administration

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